

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 14, 19, 20-22, 25 and 26 in accordance with the following:

1-13 (CANCELLED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for identifying a hub ~~connected between in a~~ communication network having a plurality of hubs connecting communication terminals to switches in and a switching system, ~~wherein a plurality of hubs are connected to the switching system via a communication network, the method comprising the steps of: forming and using a~~ time-slot-oriented data format formed from a periodic sequence of channel-oriented information segments; ~~connecting for data transmission between~~ the communication terminals ~~to via~~ the hubs; ~~setting up a data transmission between and~~ the switching system; said method comprising:

associating each of the hubs with an unambiguous address not assigned to a switch in the ~~communication network~~ switching system; and

transmitting the address of a hub via the communication network to the switching system in an agreed information segment upon request.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 14, wherein the request is made during a message transmission from the switching system to the communication terminal.

16. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 14, wherein the request is made during a message transmission from the communication terminal to the switching system.

17. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16, wherein the address is transmitted in a monitor channel transmitting configuration information of the time-slot-oriented data format.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:
indicating the request by transmitting an agreed bit combination in a signaling channel of the time-slot-oriented data format.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:
indicating the request by a simplified protocol being transmitted in ~~at least one of~~, the signaling channel or a monitor channel, which transmits configuration information concerning the time-slot-oriented data format.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 19, wherein the time-slot-oriented data format is ~~the~~ a standardized IOM-2 Integrated Services Digital Network Oriented Modular Interface data format.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:
indicating the request by bits transmitted via monitor status channels of the IOM-2 Integrated Services Digital Network Oriented Modular Interface data format to the hub being identical.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 21, wherein the address length is one of, ~~4~~ one byte, or and an integral multiple thereof.

23. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 22, wherein a data transmission via the communication network takes place on the basis of the ATM data format.

24. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 23, wherein a bi-directional conversion is made between the time-slot-oriented data format and the ATM data format for transmitting data via the communication network by the switching system and the hub.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 24, wherein the bi-directional conversion between the time-slot-oriented data format and the ATM data format takes place in accordance with a first ATM adaptation layer AAL-Type 1.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 25, wherein the bi-directional conversion between the time-slot-oriented data format and the ATM data format takes place in accordance with a second ATM adaptation layer AAL-Type 2. - -